(c) Telephone number that can easily accessed for any information and grievance is printed on each bill. Further call centres are available to redress the grievance regarding bills.

(d) The telephone bills already being issued contain the requisite details.

Allocation from USO funds for rural telephony

2130. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total USO collected till date since its inception, year-wise; and

(b) how much of this has been given to the USO Fund and what portion of that has been allocated on a company-wise basis for deployment of rural telephony, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Universal Service Support Policy came into effect from 1.4.2002. The year-wise amount collected through Universal Service Obligation (USO) Levy and funds allocated to USO Fund since its inception is given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

The year-wise details of disbursal of funds from USO Fund to various companies (Universal Service Providers) for deployment of rural telephony is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Year-wise amount collected through USO Levy and allocations made to USO Fund

(Rs. in crore)

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
Amount collected through USO Levy	1,653.61	2,143.22	3,457.73	2,454.31 (upto 31.1.2006)	9,708.87
Funds allocated to USO Funds	300	200	1,314.59	1,750	3,564.59

Statement-II

Amount Disbursed to Universal Service Providers (Disbursal upto 13.2.2006)

(Rs. in crore)

Name of service provider	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	297.23	197.30	1,311.42	1,394.77	3,200.72
Bharati	0.21	0.13	0.10	0.00	0.44
Reliance Infocom Ltd.	0.64	0.80	0.90	5.19	7.53
Tata Teleservices Ltd.	1.30	0.58	1.12	1.07	4.07
Tata Teleservices Ltd. (Maharashtra)	0.47	0.73	0.95	0.69	2.84
Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd.	0.15	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.16
Shyam Telelink Ltd.	0.00	0.45	0.10	0.00	0.55
TOTAL	300.00	200.00	1,314.59	1,401.72	3,216.31

New guidelines and linceses for improvement in telecom density

2131. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the current rural teledensity, urban teledensity and total teledensity; and

(b) the number of applications received in response to the new ILD and DLD guidelines and licenses issued by the DoT in December, 2005 company-wise and foreign holding in each of these companies towards augmenting teledensity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.01.2006, the rural, urban and total teledensity were 1.80%, 36.28% and 11.76% respectively.

(b) In response to the new guidelines issued on licenses for International Long Distance (ILD) and National Long Distance (NLD) services in December, 2005, five applications for ILD services and 13 applications for NLD services have been received. The Company-wise details of the applications are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). No license has been granted so far based on the guidelines issued in December, 2005.